

Along the way, he mentored and inspired many young adults to serve in law enforcement including one, Matt Grooms; who went on to become a United States Border Patrol Agent and eventually an agent with the Department of Homeland Security. Mr. Lawson was a self-employed business owner and his flexible schedule enabled him to serve his fellow citizens as their Constable.

For decades he served the citizens of Sevier County as a Constable with the familiar slogan, "my services as your Constable are always as close as your telephone" and as the times changed, he offered his personal cell phone to his fellow citizens to be available to them. He was a member of the Fraternal Order of Police and at one point served as a deputy Sheriff in Sevier County. He helped lives including his own Sheriff in one dangerous setting and pulled a woman to safety and saved her from drowning in the Little Pigeon River. He was a true public servant.

George's legacy of love includes his marriage to his wonderful wife, Charlotte, and his children, Cindy, Tammy and son, Little George Stephen, who have given he and Charlotte seven grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, George Lawson has faithfully served his community and family, and I proudly honor him.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JEFFREY MITCHELL

HON. TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 23, 2021

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the life of Jeffrey Mitchell. Elected officials, business leaders, community advocates, and New Mexicans from all walks of life looked to Jeff's leadership and broad expertise to build a better New Mexico.

Jeff was an economist and the Director of the Bureau of Business & Economic Research (BBER) at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. As head of BBER, Dr. Mitchell oversaw the economic forecasting for the entire state. He directed economic analysis and projections that assisted private businesses, government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and cities, and towns. His regular presentations were followed closely by CEOs, political leaders, and community advocates. Jeff brought sharp insights, expert research, keen wit, and deep compassion to his leadership and policy roles. He believed firmly that economic analysis and community development should benefit the greater society and foster a broadly shared prosperity.

Jeff was also a community builder. He actively worked with nonprofits to promote renewable energy and sustainable development and was a policy advisor to 1000 Friends of New Mexico. He co-founded SHARE New Mexico, a comprehensive, web-based resource directory that ensures everyone similarly dedicated to improving our communities has the information they need. As an econo-

mist, he used numbers and math to perform his work, but most importantly he relied on his love for our beloved communities to guide it.

Jeff's passion for life and discovery cannot be distinguished from his professional accomplishments. As a young adult, Jeff hitchhiked across the United States and Central America with a book of philosophy in his backpack, curious to learn about these great lands and their peoples. He was a humanitarian from an early age, and he started his career working on housing and energy projects for low-income communities. He was a Fulbright scholar in Venezuela and traveled through every corner of New Mexico and the world, working and learning. It was that never-ending sense of curiosity that helped make Jeff's career—and life—so full.

Jeff especially loved the arts and cultures of New Mexico and was the lead author of a groundbreaking report that found that they contributed \$5.6 billion to the state's economy and nearly 10 percent of its jobs. His work on this issue even helped inform legislation I introduced—the Creative Economy Revitalization Act—to create jobs and support our creative workers through the pandemic.

Jeff will be deeply missed by his friends, loved ones, and family. He left us too soon, and we will always remember him. Jeff's work, wisdom, and curious spirit will echo throughout New Mexico and across our country for generations to come. It is my honor to enshrine his contributions to our state, culture, and economy in history.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF HONORABLE TOM WRIGHT

HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 23, 2021

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Honorable Tom Wright of Greeneville, Tennessee. Mr. Wright currently serves as Circuit Court Judge for the State of Tennessee's Third Judicial District. He was elected to the position in 2006 and reelected in 2014. Prior to his election as Circuit Judge, he served for eight years as the General Sessions and Juvenile Judge for Greene County, Tennessee, having been elected to that position in 1998. Judge Wright will be retiring September 1 to spend more time with his family, including two children, their spouses, and grandchildren at two separate Army bases, with the third grandchild coming soon.

Tom graduated from the University of Tennessee College of Law with high honors in 1983 and was selected for membership in the Order of the Coif. Following his graduation from law school, he worked briefly for Campus Crusade for Christ before accepting a position as a Judicial Law Clerk for United States District Judge Thomas G. Hull.

Tom was in the private practice of law for several years following the judicial clerkship then accepted the position of Assistant Federal Community Defender for upper East Tennessee. He served as Federal Defender for six years before his election as Judge in 1998.

Judge Wright has been active with the Greeneville High School football team as their chaplain, Young Life, and Fellowship of Christian Athletes. He says, "I thank God for the opportunity to mentor, teach, and encourage these folks in their faith. Serving the State of Tennessee and the people of the Third Judicial District has been one of the greatest honors of my life. I am so incredibly grateful to God and the people of Greene, Hawkins, Hamblen, and Hancock counties for giving me the opportunity."

Madam Speaker, Judge Tom Wright has been an outstanding judge and valuable contributor to the Greeneville community. I proudly honor him.

BIDEN ENDANGERS AMERICAN FAMILIES

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 23, 2021

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, during my service in Congress, I have concluded over 500 one-minute speeches with "God Bless our Troops and we will never forget September 11th in the Global War on Terrorism."

This reaffirmed my appreciation of our military for keeping Americans safe for 20 years. The 2,312 U.S. military personnel killed and 20,666 wounded in Afghanistan did not serve in vain. I know firsthand of the achievements of former S.C. Adjutant General Bob Livingston with the 218th Brigade across Afghanistan. I am a grateful dad of an Afghanistan Veteran with First Lieutenant Hunter Wilson. But my hopes for remembering September 11th were misplaced. The conquest by the Taliban and Al Qaeda this past week confirms that the shocking lesson of September 11th has been forgotten: it is possible to conduct a terrorist attack on American families at home from a cave in Afghanistan abroad resulting in the mass murder of 2,977 innocent souls.

General David Petraeus is sadly correct, the war is not over. It has moved. Now it is closer, putting American families at the greatest risk of a terrorist attack ever, with chants of "Death to America, Death to Israel."

President Joe Biden undercut our Afghan allies on April 14th, removing air cover and intelligence reports against the advice of military leaders. Over 60,000 Afghan military and police have been killed fighting Taliban terrorists. Former Ambassador Ryan Crocker, a valued resource of experience in the Global War on Terrorism, correctly asserted that the situation is "catastrophic." President Biden must change course immediately and accept military counsel or he will be further diminished as a personification of catastrophic failure in the horrific tradition of appeasement like Neville Chamberlain.

In conclusion, God Bless our Troops and we should never forget September 11th in the Global War on Terrorism.